

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GUAYAQ 01268 082155Z

64

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SUBJ: PRESS REACTION: QUITO OAS FOMIN MEETING

1. EL TELEGRAFO 11/8 DEVOTES MOST OF ITS FRONT PAGE TO THE QUITO OAS MEETING, AND GIVES PROMINENT TOP OF LEFT PAGE TREATMENT, UNDER FOUR-COLUMN HEADLINE, TO CASTRO'S SISTER'S THREAT TO COMMIT SUICIDE IF SANCTIONS ARE LIFTED.

2. EDITORIALY, EL TELEGRAFO FLET THE SANCTIONS ISSUE "WOULD BE HEATEDLY DEBATED, ALTHOUGH ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT A CLIMATE OF EQUANIMITY AND DIGNITY WILL PREVAIL, AND WE EXPECT THAT AFTER THE HISTORIC CONFERENCE IN QUITO, CONTINENTAL SOLIDARITY WILL BE MORE ROBUST AND THE AUTHORITY AND RESPECT OF THE OAS WILL BE REAFFIRMED." IN THE EVENT THE SANCTIONS ARE LIFTED, EL TELEGRAFO BELIEVES ACTION "WILL MEAN LITTLE IN EXACT TERMS, BECAUSE THE VARIOUS NATIONS ASSUMING DISDAINFUL ATTITUDES TOWARD OAS RESOLUTIONS (IN THE PAST) -- WENT AHEAD AND RENEWED DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA, ALSO

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 GUAYAQ 01268 082155Z

WE NOTE HERE THAT ONE NATION, MEXICO, NEVER ACCEPTED

THE PUNITIVE DECISION TAKEN AGAINST THE COMMUNIST REGIME OF FIDEL CASTRO." REFERRING TO ECUADOR'S POSITION, EL TELEGRAFO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT NATIONAL INTEREST WILL GUIDE ECUADOR'S VOTE AND THAT IT "WILL REFLECT WITH LOYALTY AND PRECISION THE CRITERIA OF THE MAJORITY OF THE ECUADOREAN PEOPLE, JEALOUS DEFENDER OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND PRINCIPLES, WHICH COMMUNISM WISHES TO DESTROY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD."

3. EL TELEGRAFO COMMENTATOR FILOSOFITO, NOTES THAT THE U.S. MAINTAINS GOOD DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA AND CHINA, LEADERS OF COMMUNISM WITH ALL IN THE SOCIALIST WORLD, AND AFTER POINTING OUT THAT MANY OTHER NATIONS, INCLUDING ECUADOR, FOLLOW THE SAME POLICY, ADDS: "THERE IS NO REASON THEN WHY (SIMILAR RELATIONS) ARE NOT CARRIED ON WITH CUBA; AND WITH EVEN LESS REASON BY THOSE WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE OAS, SINCE THEY CANNOT AVOID THE GEOGRAPHIC AND HISTORIC FACT THAT CUBA IS A PART OF AMERICA AND HAS A RIGHT TO A PLACE IN SUCH AN ORGANIZATION."

4. EXPRESO 11/8 DEVOTED ENTIRE FRONT PAGE TO REX AGENCY ARTICLES ON FORTHCOMING OAS MEETING PLUS AN APP TALLY BOX WHICH SHOWED BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, U.S., GUATEMALA, AND NICARAGUA AS INDECISIVE, AND CHILE AND URUGUAY AS SET TO VOTE AGAINST LIFTING SANCTIONS.

5. EDITORIALY, AFTER BRIEFLY TRACING THE BACKGROUND OF THE OAS SANCTIONS, THE EXPRESO OBSERVES: "THE MEETING IN QUITO, WHICH ACCORDING TO ALL INDICATIONS WILL LIFT THE SANCTIONS, THE DECISION WILL GO INTO HISTORY AND WILL HAVE TRANSCENDENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OF REAFFIRMING THE SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH AMERICAN NATION BY GIVING WHATEVER FORM OF GOVERNMENT IT HAS BY CUTTING ONE MORE LINK IN THE CHAIN OF ECONOMIC AND IDEOLOGICAL DEPENDENCY WHICH TIES US TO THE USA..." "IN THIS SENSE, THE DECISION ABOUT TO BE TAKEN IN QUITO WILL REAFFIRM THE PRINCIPLES OF THE OAS, AN ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL BE STRENGTHENED BY THE FIFTEEN FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE, IN LINE WITH PRINCIPLES WHICH, AS WE ALL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GUAYAQ 01268 082155Z

KNOW, NOURISH THE BOLIVAR IDEAL OF UNITING THE LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLE TO FACE TOGETHER THE IDEALS, INTERESTS AND STRUCTURES, THE PROBLEMS OF THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS," THE EXPRESO SAID.

6. EXPRESO COLUMNIST MODESTO SEVERO PREDICTS THE SANCTIONS WILL BE LIFTED AND ADDS: "THOSE WHO OPPOSE IT, WILL DO SO COLDLY, BECAUSE THEY KNOW THE FIGHT IS

LOST. THE VOICES OF URUGUAY, CHILE, PARAGUAY, BOLIVIA,
WILL BE ALONE. THE STRONG VOICES OF THE RIGHTIST
BRASIL AND THE UNITED STATES, WILL BE PROTECTED BY THE
WALL OF ABSENCE."

7. ANOTHER EXPRESO COLUMNIST, VICTOR BARRERA V.,
CHARACTERIZED THE OAS AS MEETING IN QUITO "TO REPAIR
THE DOWNRIGHT INJUSTICES COMMITTED AGAINST CUBA A
DECADE AGO..."

8. EL UNIVERSO 11/8, ECUADOR'S LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY, DEVOTED
MOST OF ITS FRONT PAGETO A MAP OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA,
INCLUDING CUBA OVERPRINTED IN RED. UPI ARTICLE FROM QUITO IS
LEAD STORY, UNDER HEADLINE: MINISTER MEETING. AMERICA
BEGINS HISTORIC DEBATE TODAY. PHOTO TOP OF FRONT PAGE
SHOWS ECUADOREAN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF FOREIGN
RELATIONS DR. RODRIGO VALDEZ GREETING ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS WILLIAM
ROGERS IN QUITO AIRPORT.

9. EDITORIALY, TOO EL UNIVERSO, "IT APPEARS THAT
THE MEETING (IN QUITO) WILL END WITH A FAVORABLE
CONCLUSION TO CUBA, JUDGING FROM THE ANNOUNCEMENTS
EMITTED FROM VARIOUS POINTS IN THE HEMISPHERE AND BY
WAY OF OPINIONS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF CO-EXISTENCE;
BUT THE DEBATES WHICH WILL DEVELOP WILL ENCOUNTER
STRONG OPPOSITION TO THAT BEHAVIOR, BECAUSE THE
ISLAND GOVERNMENT HAS NOT CHANGED ITS INTERVENTIONIST
POLICY IN THE ACTIVITIES OF SOME COUNTRIES, WITH THE
GOAL OF FEEDING SUBVERSION AND ERRADICATING THE
DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM WHICH HAS MOULDED THE LIFE OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE." THE EDITORIAL ENDS NOTING THAT IT
WOULD BE BEAUTIFUL TO SEE "ONE AMERICA UNITED BY
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PAGE 04 GUAYAQ 01268 082155Z

EQUAL JUDICIAL NORMS, BY EQUAL PRACTICES OF COOPERATION,
AND BY A SOLIDARITY OF DEVOTION TO PRESERVINGOF PEACE
AND HARMONY. IF THE QUITO MEETING BRINGS THIS ABOUT
IT WOULD BE THE BEST OF THE SOLUTIONS AMONG THOSE
OBTAINED TO DATE, BUT IT IS NOT UP TO THE DELEGATES
TO SAY THE LAST WORD. IF THE MEETING DECIDES TO LIFT
THE SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA, HE (CASTRO) WOULD BE
EXPECTED TO MAKE EFFECTIVE AND INALTERABLE CHANGES IN HIS
POLICY IN AMERICA."
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